

## A JOINT EFFORT FOR CHILDREN

A new partnership-for-children between local Head Start programs and Community Mental Health Centers was announced on June 27 by two HEW officials, Dr. Edward F. Zigler, Director of the Office of Child Development, Office of the Secretary, and Dr. Bertram S. Brown, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, Health Services and Mental Health Administration. They promised new collaborative efforts to improve the quality of mental health through preventive, diagnostic, and treatment services for Head Start children and their families.

This joint effort is the first one toward integrating all existing HEW resources for the sake of emotionally disturbed, mentally retarded, and physically handicapped Head Start children and their families, according to Dr. Zigler.

The psychological well-being of preschool children and their families is only one of several essential elements of the Head Start program; it also includes physical health, nutrition, and education. Currently 291,000 children are enrolled in full-year Head Start programs in some 2,000 U.S. communities. Many of these programs could benefit from additional psychological and social services.

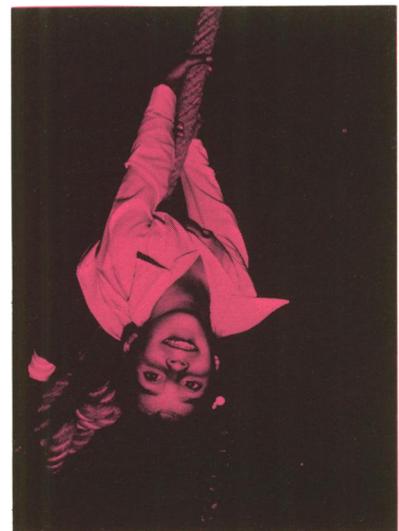
Community Mental Health Centers serve and treat persons of all ages and socioeconomic classes in their home communities. To date, more than 450 centers have been funded, and more than 320 are operational.

Dr. Brown said that close collaboration and mutual benefits are possible in a number of areas. "Many mental health centers will now have additional opportunities to provide prevention and treatment services, including group and individual consultation, to Head Start children and parents. Conversely, mental health centers stand to gain by their association with the "outreach" activities of Head Start. In addition, staffs of community mental health centers and Head Start programs can further their community interests by participating, as appropriate, in Medicaid-required early screening and diagnosis activities for preschool children. Working together, the staffs will bring new emphasis to planning and implementing the treatment of children who are discovered to be emotionally disturbed."

### NOTICE

The August and September issues of *HEALTH SERVICES REPORTS* have been combined, as were the June and July issues. The change from 12 to 10 issues a year is necessary because of increased production costs.

*Cover*—A healthy, happy child experiencing the joy of life is the central symbol of Project Head Start. This well-known national program for preschool children, funded by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, is now in its seventh year. In the article beginning on page 575, a former Head Start nurse presents a new perspective on health care for children in the program. Photo of Head Starter Stephanie Coca by Kip Crofts, Head Start teacher in Laramie, Wyo.



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